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At the meeting of 23 October, [redacted] discussed Crop Production Prospects in the European Satellites in 1957. Agricultural production in the Satellites in 1957 is expected to exceed that in 1956, but will be less than in 1955, with the exception of Poland, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia. The increase in crop production in the southern Satellites (Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania) is expected to be considerably larger than that of the drought year, 1956. However, the number of livestock and the output of livestock products in this area is expected to be somewhat less than in 1956. The drought in 1956 did not affect agriculture in the Northern Satellites (Poland, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany).

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Although East Germany and Czechoslovakia are expected to retain a high level of imports of foodstuffs, notably grains, meat and fats and oils during the 1957/58 consumption year (1 July 1957 to 30 June 1958), it is likely that import requirements of foodstuffs for the Satellites as a whole from the USSR will be somewhat less than the previous year,

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based on experiences in the past two years. Bulgaria and Rumania, net importers of wheat in 1956/57, are expected to have export surpluses of grain in 1957/58, but exports of meat will be less; Bulgaria may not export any meat during the year.

The availability of foodstuffs for consumption in the Satellites from domestic production is expected to be larger than in 1956/57, except for East Germany. Consumption of food in Poland and Czechoslovakia in 1957/58 should be at about the same level as the previous year. Increased exports of meat from Poland for hard currency would have to be made at the expense of consumption. Food consumption in East Germany may be less in 1957/58 unless import requirements of certain foods which appear larger than the previous year can be obtained. Except for Hungary, whose food consumption will probably be less in 1957/58 than the previous year, the consumption of food in the southern Satellites is expected to exceed that in 1956/57, but will probably not equal that in 1955/56.

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